WENDELL POST

October / November '87 Vol. X No. 4 50¢ PLEASE!

A Place to Meet in The Heart of Town

The Wendell Community Meeting house (note the new name) is celebrating the reopening of it's doors Sunday, November 8, 1987 at 11am with music, lively discussion and refreshments. Any individual or organization interested in using or preserving the building is invited to the celebration.

During a brief business meeting we will form a committee or committees which will be responsible for the programming, maintainance and fund raising for the building.

By expanding the horizons for use and support of the building the Church will continue to have a place to meet and other organizations will also be able to share the Meetinghouse. Thanks to generous donations and fundraisers from the community and help from the Franklin County Association of the United Church of Christ (who also suggested the new name) the problem of skyrocketing insurance prices have been solved. Now perhaps we can begin thinking about the more interesting aspects of having a Community Meetinghouse. Bring your visions and dreams and join us to create a meaningful spiritual experience for the Wendell Community. Child care will be provided.

Sylvia Wetherby

Selectboard To Serve as General Contractor

Site preparations for the new town garage/fire station roughly a hundred yards north of the Center post office are visible and excavation work will begin in earnest momentarily.

Selectman Michael Idoine said work could begin quickly--"finally"-- because his board was likely to decide to take on itself the job of general contractor for the project. Only one bid was received on an invitation to private companies to take the assignment, and that bid was rejected because the company is not listed by DCPO, the state agency which reviews contracts for public works projects.

Voters approved the sum of $220,000 for the project.

Jonathan von Ranson

Arts Council News

Piano for Townhall

Great News!

The Arts Council has purchased a wonderful used Wurlitzer studio upright piano for the Town Hall. Many thanks to David Wertman for donating his time and knowledge of pianos and to Lynne Meryl for helping him locate just the right piano for the Town's needs. Together they enlisted John Ingress and Isha to move it to the Town Hall, where David expertly tuned it. John "Klondike" Koehler donated some blankets, and Lynne made a cover for it when it is not in use.

Although the Arts Council grant paid for the majority of the cost of the piano, there are still maintenance costs for tuning and general upkeep which are not covered by the grant. This piano will last many years if we treat it well. Contributions for its maintenance can be made out to the Wendell Arts Lottery Council and sent to Pat Judice, Treasurer, New Salem Road, Wendell Depot 01380

Grant Money

The Wendell Arts Council has grant money for residents who are engaged in the pursuit of the arts. In order to be eligible, you must:

1) Have at least one year experience
2) Show samples or a brochure
3) Have a public showing, if applicable
4) Be independent of religious purposes
5) Use grant for purchase of materials or services

Applications are available for interested groups or individuals. To recieve one, contact Phylis Lawrence, Old Egypt Road, Shutesbury 01072 or Anne Diemand at 4-6111. Applications must be completed and returned by Oct. 19th. On that date the Arts Council will review all applications during an open meeting in the Town Hall at 7:00pm.

Sing

Julia Burrough will be teaching a work shop called "Opening the Voice". It will be held at the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon from 2-4pm on Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 1.

Anyone who likes to sing is welcome, no matter how shy. Julia will teach technique give some individual attention, group singning, and some improvisation. For more information, call Julia at 544-7352.

Pat Brown, Cheryl Perkins and Anne Zak at the Wendell Country Store.

The Wendell Countrystore

The store is under new ownership. First I asked Anne Zak, the former owner for a message to her customers. She wants to thank everyone. Her plans for the future are uncertain, except that she will go on a vacation this month. We will be sorry to see her go, since the store has contributed to making Wendell the kind of community that it is.

The new owner is Cheryl Perkins. She and her co-manager, Pat Brown will work full time at the store. Cheryl's plans are ambitious. She wants people to buy most of their things at the store. A full breakfast and lunch with expanded menu will be served, and possibly some evening meal. She will make home-made bread, pies and muffins, the bread to be of several kinds: white, whole grain, etc. Waffles on Sundays will be continued. The store will be open seven days a week, the same hours as before.

Both Cheryl and Pat are country girls, Cheryl from Maine, Pat from Connecticut. Both worked in Boston, Cheryl for 23 years, Pat for twenty. Neither has had experience running a country store. Cheryl hopes her customers will be patient with her learning. For her this is a baptism by fire.

She first came to know about the store from an ad in the Boston Globe, came to see it motivated mainly by curiousity, then took a fancy to store and town and decided to buy

Julian Wadleigh

WENDELL POST

Vol. X No. 4

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Town's Open Space Character vs. Stillwater Sale

"It's a horse race" whether a 450-acre tract of southern Wendell owned by Richard Wolff will be sold for development or open space, said Selectboard member Michael Idione during the first week of October. At that time, the selectboard had to decide whether to take the risk of accepting and/or assigning a right of first refusal on the tract knowm as Stillwaters, under the provisions of Mass. General Law Chapt. 61. This is a forestry management program dessigned to improve timber management and protect private forestland against change of use. Certain financial and legal obligations would be attached to the town's decision.

The prospective private purchaser, Properties of America, has submitted plans for development of the parcel. None of its site plans falls under subdivision regulations recently adopted by the planning board since none involves creation of new roads. The board signed the second set of plans to arrive, including a restrictive endorsement related to the town's purchase option. Under conflicting statutory deadlines, the planning board was forced to act before the 60-day deadline the town faces in its purchase decision.

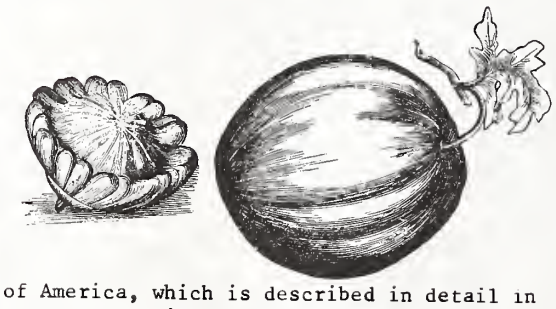
Possibly the most complex and far-reaching planning decision to face Wendell, the Stillwaters issue pits the interests of this small town against the formidable Properties of America, which is described in detail in a prospectus issued when the company sought to become a publicly-traded stock company. According to the prospectus, described by Sharon Gensler, the firm's general policy is not to buy property outright, on speculation, but to hold it under option until it has secured commitnents and down payments from other buyers, then do a quick turn-around. "They're never out money that way," pointed out Gensler, one of the members of the abuttors group that has been leading the charge against the POA plans. The prospectus rereveals that POA's president was convicted and served tome for embezzlement of a Berkshire County bank. Gensler had learned, too, that the highly aggressive company "sent out letters to everybody in town who owns over 10 acres, offering to buy." That letter suggested that the purpose o f purchasing Wendell property was "investment, not developement."

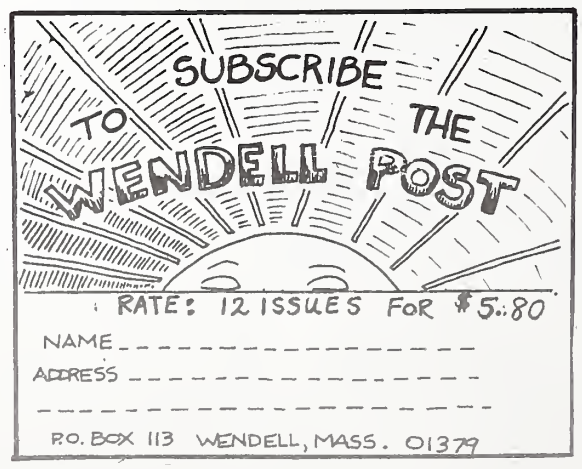
The town is not alone in the fight. Trustees of the Reservation, a non-profit conservation and preservation organization, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife are lending a hand. And a Leverett attorney, Michael Pill, has been retained by the abuttors group to assist in defending against the POA plans. To date, Gensler said, his work has involved researching and sharing information with the group and, ultimately, town officials.

Jonathan von Ranson

While getting the police log this issue, I was shocked and sadden to hear about the child that was killed in the four wheeler accident on Jennison Rd. Being from a little town it's easy to think things like that don't happen to us. But they do. It wasn't my child, but he is someone's hope for the future which will be no more. If we could all realize the danger of certain toys and talk with our kids about safety it may help. Several years ago my nephew was injured on a three wheeler. We were lucky, Ben only temporarily hurt his leg and foot. He's ok now and it's mostly a forgotten incident. We were very lucky because it really could have been us that time. It's too easy for all of us to drive too fast, maybe not pay total attention to what we are doing. What we have to remember is that vehicles can be dangerous. This event is a shared sorrow

Anne Diemand





Consider Protection

Wendell's open space is fast disappearing as the town's population swells and pressures for developement increase. While town committees struggle to develope effective and acceptable zoning bylaws and long-term planning, private landowners have the oppurtunity to take immediate steps to protect open space and maintain the rural character and atmosphere of out town.

Conservation easements are designed to protect land from developement while retaining rights associated with private ownership. Information concerning conservation easements from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest via the Mt. Graceland Conservation Trust in Warwick explains that ownership of land implies ownership of certain rights. The right to build a house, cut timber and mine are among the rights assiciated with land ownership. In the past, some of these rights such as mining and timber cutting have been used, sold and taxed separately from the land. The Conservation Easement is based on this principle of the separability of land ownership rights.

A Conservation Easement separates the right to build the "development rights", from ownership of the land. The landowner donating development rights, continues to use and enjoy the land as before and may receive significant tax advantages. The community receives and enjoys the benefits of the permanently protected open space, (this does not necessarily imply public use).

The Conservation Easement is a legally enforceable two-party agreement (between a landowner - "grantor" and a conservation group or government body - "grantee") designed to maintain "land and water areas predominantly in their natural, scenic or open condition or in agricultural, farming, open space of forest use". A Conservation Easement is flexible in content and may impose restrictions on limitations or activities are consistent with the protection of open space and environmental quality and fulfill "conservation purposes". A contract can be written to the individual property owner's specifications (i.e. whether or not to allow public access, hunting, timber harvesting, etc.)

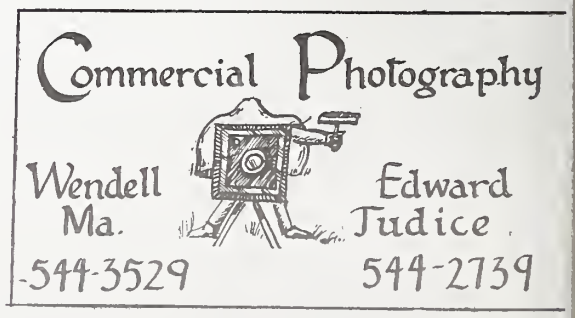
Benefits include protection of wildlife habitat in perpetuity, federal income tax charitable deductions, reduced real estate tax assessment, and avoidance of estate and gift taxes.

We encourage you to consider placing all or part of your undeveloped land into a conservation easement. Talk with neighbors and friends to organize an effective easement plan to maximize conservation land in your area.

A preliminary meeting sponsored by the Wendell Conservation Commission was held Oct 5th at the Town Hall for community information concerning conservation easements. For additional infromation and easement procedures contact: Mason Phelps
Wendell Conservation Commission 544-2735

Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, 5 Chestnut Hill, Warwick, MA 544-2181

Any Non-Profit Land Conservation Trust



Wendell Planning Board Update

The summer months and into September was an unusually busy time for the Planning Board.

The consultation with Land Use, Inc. that concluded in June has resulted in a draft of a "Guide for Building in Wendell", the procedures that anyone desiring to divide land and/or build should follow. The Board will make final comments and revisions and will return the draft to Land Use Inc. in October. Copies of the finished manual will be available in the near future.

The review of Wendell's subdivision control law resulted in a complete revision of the law. As one board member stated, "for every paragraph in the old law, there are now one or two pages." Although we strove to not create an unwieldy document, we found it necessary to adopt language suitable to the era of extreme development pressures facing Wendell and most adjacent towns. As we explained to those who attended the series of hearings that proceeded amending the subdivision control law, subdivision control only pertains to those lots without road frontage, i.e. interior land. Under the revised law, anyone wishing to develop land with no, or inadequate road frontage will be required to file a definitive plan and an environmental impact statement before the board will consider approval of the project. The law, however, provides economic incentives to a developer who provides a preliminary plan of the project. The fees specified in the revised law for a project with a preliminary plan are much less than the $500 per lot fee for those that skip this step. The three acres minimum lot size required by the zoning by law also applies to the subdivision control law.

The zoning by law, which governs the development of land that does have at least 200 feet of frontage on an approved road, still remains the most used guideline as all development to date has only involved road frontage property. Some recent situations have servied to clarify the Planning Board's role in the application of the zoning by law.

The 433 acres known by many as Stillwaters has been the focus of the Planning Board and many townspeople of late. The Planning Board was presented two maps by developers acting as agents of Richard Wolfe, the owner. The first map divided the land contained in the triangle formed by Lockes Hill and Lockes Village Road into more than twenty lots, most having three acres. As this is Chapter 61 land (land that has been given special tax status since it is classified under a forest management program) and therefore must be first offered for purchase to the Town of Wendell before its use can be converted, the Planning Board initially refused to "sign" the map. (Signing the map refers to the Planning Board certifying that each lot shown on the map has sufficient frontage and access to comply with the zoning by law and therefore does not have to go through the subdivision control process. This is also called ANR, i.e. (Subdivision) Approval Not Required). We were advised, however, by town counsel that the Planning Board was probably exceeding its powers by refusing to sign a map that had adequate frontage. After lengthy deliberation, the board opted to sign the resubmitted map with a restrictive endorsement, a note warning any prospective buyer that the land is still Chapter 61 and the town is considering arranging for its purchase. Following that decision, a second map dividing the road frontage on the Stillwaters or west side of Lockes Village Road was signed in the same way. The developers have also indicated their interst in a subdivision of the interior land on the western plot. All plans, however, hinge on the town's right of first refusal.

Our recent discussions have clearly pointed out some shortcomings of the existing zoning by law. There is no protection against extensive development of a road frontage property that meets the 200 feet, 3 acre per lot requirement. One large project creating many new building lots could significantly alter the character of an important area. Obviously, a series of such projects could change the town entirely. It is our opinion that the town should have tools available to regulate the pace and nature of development. In some cases it may be advantageous to encourage a development of interior land with limited access than to have 20 new driveways along a main thoroughfare. It may be advisable to also limit the number of lots created each year to determine the impact on aquifers. There should be guidelines allowing for the clustering of homes if this will preserve an important open space. It is there issues that the planning board will be addressing as we move from the revision of the subdivision control law to overhauling the zoning by law. All townspeople with an interest in these areas are encouraged to come to the Town Hall and discuss their views with the Planning Board at 7:30 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Myron Becker
Jerry Barilla
Janet Burstein
Raymond Avery
Steve Gross

"An Early Breakfast", by C.R. Ellis, Jr. 1987

Defenders, protectors, and just plain appreciators of Wendell's wildlife riches have a chance to see how local artist Bob Ellis has been relating to his surroundings for the last year or so. A show of 17 of Bob's watercolor paintings, which opened Sunday October 4, will be on exhibit in the Amherst Community Gallery in North Amherst until October 28.

Implied in the scenes of otters and herons (and other creatures) doing their thing are both a threat and a promise, for the kind of fragile beauty Bob shows is in fact a Wendell reality available to all--but one which may be on the way out. According to Bob, "We will have chipmunks around until the housecats take over the world, but bears and otters and coyotes are another story--they just don't get along with suburbs."

The Community Gallery, located in the Amherst School of the Arts, is open from 12 to 6 on weekends and from 7 to 9:30 Wed. evenings. The Gallery is located near the junction of Rt. 63 and Meadow Street in North Amherst (upstairs in the same building as the Survival Center.

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Senior Services Outlined

On Wednesday, September 30, fifteen Wendell senior citizens met at the Town Hall to hear Eileen Nordstrom from the Orange Council on Aging speak on services to which those over sixty were entitled. The new Silverline Directory of Senior Services was given to each person present.

The Senior Citizen's bus used by Warwick and New Salem will be made available to Wendell Seniors on the third Thursday of each month for a shopping trip to Greenfield. Those desiring to make this trip should call Eileen Nordstrom at 544-7566 before 3:00 the day before. The first shopping trip will be Thursday, Oct. 15.

For further information call Lucille Lewis (who has been named to replace Elizabeth Scully) or Raymond Avery or Elsie Diemand.

Horseshoeing
Tony Diemand 544-2851

CHRISTOPHER SIKES
PIANO TECHNICIAN
WENDELL, MASS. 544-3914
TUNING REPAIR ESTIMATES

Route 2 Politics

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BACK SOUTH BANK and/or MODIFIED SOUTH BANK and/or DID WHAT?

Recent reports are that the Franklin County Commissioners have once again restated their support of reconstruction of Rt 2 through Wendell State Forest. At an Oct. 6th meeting, Commissioners Margaret H. Herlihy, Francis R. Pleasant and William D. Benson went on to discuss joining with SEAD (Save Erving Against Destruction) in a postcard campaign appealing to state officials to put the road on the Wendell side. This grew out of Fran Pleasant's request that the Commissioners reassert their pro-South Bank position. Margaret Herlihy had been contacted by the Erving group, and brought SEAD mailing campaign material to the agenda.

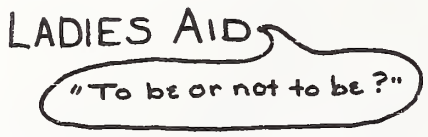
The "Post" discovered that each of the Commissioners holds a different view of what was decided at the meeting. "The Recorder" newspaper printed in bold script that "William D. Benson said the commissioners want to assert their preference for the Modified South Bank Alignment." Bill Benson was contacted to verify which plan the Commissioners had endorsed, because the Modified South Bank is a different plan than the South Bank Alignment traditionally supported by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Benson explained that the newspaper had misquoted him. He expressed his feeling that there was "unclarity in the motion, a confused discussion, and more confusion over the final motion." Asked how the vote went, he said, "It's rare votes are taken. It was very foggy." According to Bill Benson, "It is not appropriate for the Commission to advocate for an alignment." He recalled that his main point at the meeting was that the State has promised and withheld a final decision for so long. "So let's stress that the State get on with the decision making process, instead of holding everyone in abeyance." He said, "I didn't send in my cards, I didn't think it was appropriate. I don't have a problem with restating the Commission's historical position of supporting the South Bank Alignment, but my problem is, when are we going to have a decision? I think the county should focus in on the state's lack of ability to make a decision."

The Commission's Chair, Margaret Herlihy, recalls the outcome differently. "We did support the Modified South Bank Plan...It was not a recorded vote, it was a vocal position by all." She said,"I personally sent out my cards to Sec. of Transportation Salvucci and to the Governor." Asked why she felt so strongly, she said, "Administrator Wayne Melville has attended all the Rt2 Hearings, and he returned from one meeting convinced that a woman from Erving had come up with a good compromise (the Modified South Bank Plan) and solved all the problems." Herlihy sees the current road as "a terrible handicap for the economy of Orange and Athol, and for safety." Asked about documented environmental concerns, she said, "Cars have to go along Rt 2, and Erving has survived. There is no greater environmental impact in Wendell, and it will survive, but with greater safety." Pressed to back up this opinion, she said lastly, "I'm no expert. This is probably an uninformed view."

As for Fran Pleasant, his recollection of the Oct. 6 meeting highlights pertained to an action not mentioned by the other Commissioners. "At that meeting I requested that a letter be sent to Salvucci and to the Governor endorsing the Mod. So. Bank, and requesting movement on a decision. As far as I know, all 3 of us signed that letter today (Oct. 13)." Fran Pleasant was very vocal of his support for the Mod. So. Bank, which he tends to call, out of habit, the South Bank. He believes the Commissioners "have supported this plan since almost as soon as it was proposed by that lady in Erving." Commissioner Pleasant elaborated on the theme of how Rt 2 "has been fixed from Littleton to Shelburne", meaning removed from urban centers, "except for the bottleneck in Erving." "As far as environmental impacts", he volunteered, "I don't see that it (road through State Forest) would be of any greater concern than having a road that is in the floodplain and was under 5½-6 ft. of water in the flood of '38."

Kathy Becker



Wendell Ladies Aid needs new members. It has tried recruitment last year by sending home notices with all Wendell school children and by posting that same notice in the Wendell Post. No response. The Ladies Aid cannot seem to understand why it is so difficult to attract a few new members. It is a fun group of Moms, old and young, who meet once a month, only during the school year, to plan for the parties for the children and fund raising activities. It is a flexible organization in that if you cannot attend a monthly meeting, that's okay., another member will fill you in.

In order for the Ladies Aid to continue it does need new members. At the Halloween Party there will be a sign up sheet if you are interested - or call Annie Diemand at 4-6111 or Claire Green at 4-7421.

The other thought is that maybe the Ladies Aid has become out-dated. It needs to change or dissolve? Do townspeople feel that there are enough Halloween and Christmas parties for the Wendell children without having the Ladies Aid parties, as well? Let us know your ideas and feelings. We need to hear from the townspeople so that Ladies Aid can be an effective and thriving group.

Clare Green

C.A.W.S. Meets Commissioner

Citizens Against Wrongful Searches announced October 2nd that they accept the state's latest agreement concerning low-level helicopter searches.

On September 29th Jonathan von Ranson and Eileen Sauvageau of CAWS met in conference with Commissioner William McCabe of the Department of Public Safety. Present also were the DPS attorney, Stan Adleman and Senator Wetmore representative, Patricia O"neill.

After hearing the groups' complaint and request, McCabe agreed to the issuing of a directive to surveillance units (airwing division) that no flights should be conducted below an altitude of 500' unless there is individualized suspicion, and that local authorities (District Attorney) shall approve the flight. McCabe refused to sign a written agreement with Wendell because of the town's notoriety (regarding vote 9 years ago directing police to disregard marajuana planting done on small scale for growers' private use).

Jonathan von Ranson says that McCabe was well-spoken and direct, also very firm on the limits of what the state would do or concede in its law enforcement policies. The meeting lasted well over an hour.

This meeting was the culmination of two years of concerted effort on behalf of the twenty or so CAWS members from Wendell, Warwick, Orange, and Royalston. The group, with their lawyers, Ed Berlin and Buzz Eisenberg, prepared a law suit against the state for its extremely low helicopter flights in September of 1985. The many would-be plaintiffs complained of harrassment and infringement of privacy as well as the terrifying of animals and children by the tree-top level hovering of the police copters.

"The unconstitutionality of random ariel surveillance is still an issue," says von Ranson, "before air borne police, a citizen's right to privacy was insured by the 4th ammendment's protection against unwarranted search and seizure." Senator Wetmore's aide suggested after the meeting that CAWS talk to the Senator about initiating legislation to insure this privacy. The members of the group still hold the right to sue if they so decide.

Susan DunLany

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War Tax Resistance

On September 16th the Board of Dental Examiners in Boston voted 4-2 to suspend the license of Dr. Tom Wilson, Dentist.

Dr. Wilson has been a dentist in Shelburne Falls, MA, for the past thirty years. For fifteen years he has refused to pay federal income tax because of his opposition of the predominately military use of this money. He feels personally responsible for how his tax money is used. He reasons that since he would not "contribute voluntarily to nuclear stockpiling, Central American terrorism and the like," he will not do so even if the government demands it.

Over the years, Dr. Wilson has been refusing tax payment, he has endured numerous pressures from the federal government. Despite this, he has remained steadfast in his war-tax refusal. Recently, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has joined in pressuring him. The state shares income information with the federal IRS. Because Dr. Wilson refused to supply them with income information, the IRS fabricated an income for him. Using this fictitious sum, the Commonwealth has demanded taxes far in excess of his actual tax liability. Realizing if he supplies them with tax information, that they will share it with the IRS, he has decided to also refuse cooperating with the state.

At a recent meeting of the Pioneer Valley War Tax Resisters in Wendell, members decided to continue vigorous support of Dr. Wilson through informational vigils at the Post Office in Greenfield and by urging citizens to write to the Attorney General and to the Board of Dental Examiners to protest the suspension of his license. The group believes that Dr. Wilson's political and ideological actions do not have anything to do with his practice of dentistry.

PVWTR urges readers to write in protest to: The Board of Dental Examiners, Reg. Div. Rm. 1610 Saltonstall Bldg., 100 Cambridge St. Boston, MA 02202 and to Francis X. Bellotti, Att. General, State House, Boston, MA 02133.

Susan DunLany

The Cracker Barrel

well, Moby Bass is still loose in Moore's Pond. He managed to elude me not once but twice. Next year he'll be even bigger.

The Wendell Country Store has been sold. I've met the new owners, Pat and Cheryl, and I'm happy to say they are very nice. They do plan on a few changes but they are not drastic changes so we still have our "Country Store". A sad note, we'll all miss Ann.

Something tells me we are in for that winter that everyone dreads. The weather changed quickly, the leaves peaked quickly and early, the early snow on Oct. 4th, all of these could be indications.

The conversations have changed, fishing is drifting over to talk of the coming deer season. I got my license and bow stamp and primitive weapon season opens the third of Novenber. Keep your dogs tied to make it a better season for all concerned.

All in all it was a good Spring and Summer but it is time to put on the snow tires, check the antifreeze, make sure there's enough firewood. The holidays are not far away, we have much to look forward to.

Mr. Cook just informed me he has picked his whole garden except winter turnips and potatoes, now you can beleive it's on it's way.

Richard Alves

doug tanner
fiddle * guitar * banjo
lessons gigs etc.
544-2067

Crystal Fantasia

A trip to Herkimer Diamond Mines

Everyone knows that song about "I love New York!" which rings incessantly across the TV screen. Well, I can say I agree. I really did like New York State, especially the treasures hidden in the ledges of Herkimer, NY, where I first met my first Herkimer Diamond. First of all, the ride via Route 2 is breathtaking, as you continue west through Troy, NY. Advancing past this peaceful and scenic route past Shelburne, Charlemont and Heath on my left I saw a majestic statue of a Mohawk Indian raising his arms to the sky with the letters written "Mohawk Park" below.

The sun, having just risen, slowly illuminated bringing the Indian's seemingly invocative gesture alive within me. I woke up again as a chill ran through me followed by a momentary reunion with the God within myself. Recharged for the morning, I drove effortlessly through the Berkshires, drinking the beauty as nourishment at every second. Higher and higher my silver Toyota climbed to heights far above the fog that drifted around us. Little restaurants and shops sat quietly in the breezes that delighted my son and me. That was only the beginning of a lovely ride to Herkimer, NY, where the clearest of quartz crystals lay luxuriously in stone pockets or glistening in the sand right where you walk! Didn't somebody sat, I thought, that if you shuffle the sand one could find these diamonds? I only could see a ledge surrounded by rocks of all sizes, until upon looking down, began to sift out some of the sand and YES! I found one - a real, true, clearer than clear quartz Herkimer diamond. I picked it up and found it to be shaped so perfectly as a double terminated quartz crystal. Even though my specimens were small, the clarity is refreshing and brilliant. Rock lovers (hounds, as they are called) enjoy pounding and chiseling the layered stones to find whold crystals, some at three inches or more in diameter, embedded in dolomite rock itself. As Dharma and I shuffled chiseled and hammered, we were amazed at the abundance of these lovely earth treasures.

Herkimer diamonds are clear, double terminated quartz crystals which began forming in bedrock about a half a billion years ago. Information from the proprietors of the mines informs us further of how this bedrock was found "in a Shallow Cambrian Sea that lapped against the southern shores of the ancestral Adirondak Mountains, the limy sediments which had slowly accumulated beneath the sea's salty waters were gradually compacted under the weight of thousands of feet of additional sediments forming the rock strata Little Falls Dolostone. While still beneath the sea, water seeped through the pores of the rock often creating 'bugs' by dissolving part of the rock. Millions of years later, water rich with silica filled these bugs and eventually evaporated of drained away, leaving the silica which had grown by precipitation to form the quartz crystals."

Not only are Herkimer Diamonds beautiful at the same, they are beneficial to the mind and body. Many feel that these crystals aid in allowing for good dreams, and clear inner visions. These crystals may be worn delicately as jewelry or held in times of woe for a soothing touch, or simply placed on a bureau to be admired.

There are two mines in the Herkimer area. One is the "Herkimer Diamond Mines" which inclides a mine, campgrounds and a gift shop. Down the same road is "The Ace of Diamond Mine" operated by Don Smith who has been watching eager prospectors come and go for thirty years. Don says that there's been more influx of people coming to the mines because of their icreased popularity. In his small gift shop he displays several articles on Herkimer Diamonds written in various magazines. He welcomes any prospector.

So, for a family outing, or for some serious prospecting, the Herkimer Diamond Mines and The "Ace" are both enjoyable spots with guaranteed finds. Happy Prospecting! By the way, if you're on Mormon Hollow Rd. stop by and see my collection or call me at 544-7702 for more infromation about Herkimer Diamonds.

Daria Nielson

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Bashful Boy

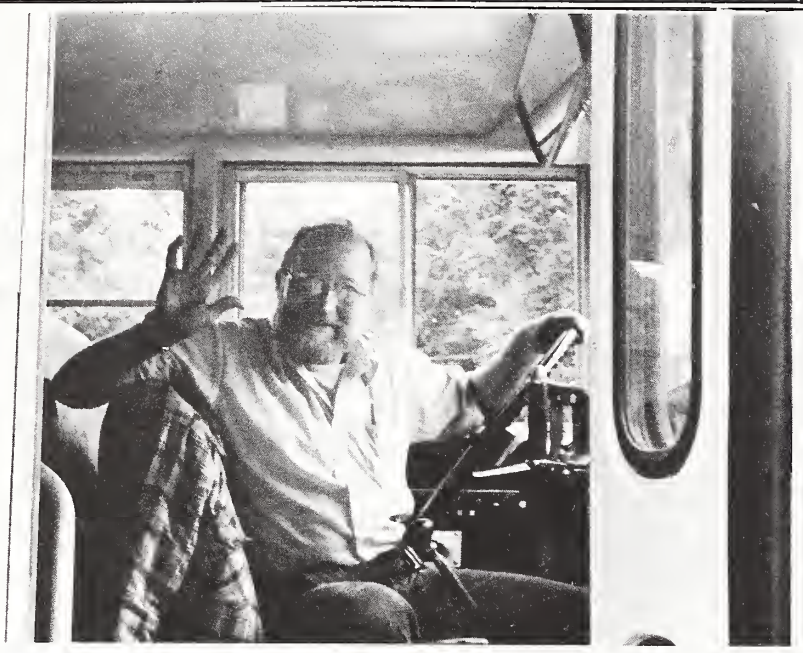
A day of terror in my otherwise favored life struck me at the age of eight. I spent my childhood with ten other faculty children on the ample campus of the college where my father taught. We did not go outside the gates except for Sunday school and church entertainments. The latter became routine, did not bother me; we had little cardboard satchels of hard candies at Christmas, ill-hidden eggs in a pile of hay at Easter, on the Fourth paper hats and a cookout of hot dogs.

My mother, no society woman herself, was a friend of Miss Wilbraham. Miss W. was of an old family in the city and traditionally sponsored a Valentine party. This was no charity affair. She invited some two score little girls and as many boys to the party. It was held in the public rooms of the best hotel in the city, on the Franklin Street front. I was not old enough to be included, and did not belong anyhow because the guests were of the town, not, if I may say of children, of gown.

But came a day when it was intimated to me, following a chance meeting of my mother with Miss Wilbraham, that this time I was marked for slaughter. Yes, slaughter because, on a narrow academic income and my family's devotion to a serious life, we had no music in our campus home, no dancing lessons, I had been only once to the theater (Rip van Winkle), knew more of knockabout shoes than of fancy slippers.

Mother could not take me, another faculty wife dropped me at the hotel. I knew not one of the other much-dressed children. I had seen at church a Mr. Evans who floated about, told the musicians when to play, etc. For a blessed interval we just milled about, me keeping my back to the protective wall. Then the moment: Miss Wilbraham lined up the girls opposite the boys. At a signal the girls approached us with a mincing dance step. These enemies all wore wide sashes, pinks, yellow, violet wide ribbons, shiny and menacing. I dreaded the inches by which the stockinged legs advanced upon us. When my opposite number stood opposite me I was supposed to dance with her? I knew not one step. She was still in her line, not yet vis a vis when I resolved on escape at any cost. I slunk out of the boys' rank, grabbed Mr. Evans, explained breathlessly that I had to go to the bathroom. Would he take me by the hand and guide me through those high apartments of white and gold to a toilet! Yes, thank God, he did. Once the door closed on my quaking frame I contrived to hide there in blessed privacy until a young woman somehow connected with Mr. Evans inquired for me, found me shrinking amidst the plumbing, and, the party soon over, took me home. I have had brief service in the army with less alarm then I suffered that cursed day in honor of St. Valentine.

Brodus Mitchell



Al Miller

Sarah de Roode

Linda Facey

Bus Drivers

The school bus driver plays an important part in our daily life. Each day throughout the seasons, I trust the driver to deliver my daughter to school safely and to maintain order in the bus during the on hour trip to and from Swift River School. Last year our regular bus driver was Linda Facey. This year, Linda shares the route with part-time driver, Al Miller. Another driver, Sarah de Roode, new to the Swift River School route, has also been hired by the F. M. Kuzmeskus Bus Company located in Turners Falls, MA. These changes in the driving personnel created questions in my mind, so I went in search of some answers. After speaking with each of the three drivers mentioned, I have satisfied my curiosity and have also learned about a personal accomplishment worth noting.

Friendly

After calling each of the new drivers, Al Miller and Sarah de Roode, I was impressed with their friendly, genuine and open attitudes. Questions you may have throughout the school year about the bus transportation may be asked of the drivers directly. Al Miller is new to the job of school bus driving and is often recognized for his previous work with delivering papers for the Greenfield Recorder. A resident in this town for at least eight years, Al has one of his daughters riding with him on his route to school Comments from children on his bus route include: "He's nice, but firm." and "I like Al...he says 'good-bye' to me." When asked about the training for his job, Al commented, "Driving an empty bus was easy, but with the kids, noise and distractions it's a different story." Sarah de Roode, full time driver on another Wendell route, has had six years of experience driving school buses. She drove for four years in the Northampton area and last year, was driving for the Franklin Co. Tech. School. Taking a lower rate of pay than in previous years, Sarah feels partially compensated by beginning her work days a bit later than with driving for the Tech. school and she is able to park the bus in her yard at home. Changes which Sarah notices in driving a school bus in a small community are that "everybody knows you," the parents talk with her and the kids riding on the bus seem to be responsible about their behavior. All three bus drivers carry Class II and DPU licenses designated for school bus driving. Classroom instruction, logged driving hours, a physical examination, test screening for tuberculosis and a clean driving record are all requirements for school bus drivers in our state.

Our regular bus driver, Linda Facey (featured in the Wendell Post, Oct-Nov, 1986), has been able to train the new drivers as a result of her passing testing and earning a certification for training issued by the Commonwealth. Driving bus since 1980, Linda fulfilled the requirement for three years of previous driver experience in order to attend the classes and testing for certification. Held on August 12 & 13, 1987 at the Regency in Shrewsbury, MA, the trainer certification combined lessons on rules and regulations the first day, and on the second day, a written test plus a verbal presentation on a specific topic to last 15-20 minutes. None of the tests were returned to the fifty, or so, participants in the program. Linda says she spent her overnight during the two-day excursion at The Stephanie, pouring through the yellow manual on state rules and regulations and preparing for her verbal presentation on Bus Evacuation. Passing this exam put Linda among a group of only a few people in the Franklin County area with qualifications to train new school bus drivers. As well as drivig bus routes, Linda manages the drivers working for the Kuzmeskus Bus Co. and she is also in demand to train drivers in nearby towns. All three of the Wendell bus drivers employed by the Kuzmeskus Bus Co. have the option to drive routes in Turners Falls, to sports events, and other special trips.

Having spoken with each of the three school bus drivers, my anxieties are now lessened concerning the additional driver on our route. The research for this article has provided me with a clearer understanding of the job called school bus driver as well as brought me closer to knowing three twon residents. Our small community provides a safe environment in whcih we can reach out to other individuals with our personal concerns. Bus driving may be a job title and we have some friendly, knowledgeable individuals filling the job opportunity.

Donna Huntington

Songs From the Heart
NOTES FROM PRESCHOOL

Wendell Center is alive with the laughing of children on the playgound at Swift River Preschool. This year brings 4 staff members and 26 children. Our projects have included clay doh people, collage, stuffed bodies, silly puppets, family books and a trip to Hamilton Orchards on Sept. 30th.

One of the more exciting projects, however was the launching of our Time Capsule. We decorated paper towel tubes and placed self portraits, heights and weights and hand and foot prints inside them. These were lovingly placed inside the time capsule - a large box with silver stars and a dial. As I carried the filled time capsule out of doors I couldn't believe it! It started to wiggle and jiggle! The children watched wide-eyed!! We set it in our field amongst the goldren rod and went back in for our story - when SUDDENLY - BOOM!! A large noise and we all dashed out to see what the commotion was about! Our Time Capsule had indeed blasted off!! Where will it travel to? We'll find out in the Spring!

Metamorphosis

Another exciting year has begun at the Swift River Preschool. Our first few weeks started off with a Monarch caterpillar transported from Many Waters Farm in Ashfield. Luckily, we have milkweed growing in our field!! Not having a suitable top for our aquarium I precariously placed news print paper over the top and in the morning our caterpillar had disappeared!! With a keen eye and sweet grin Deni Pinardi pointed up, and there was our little friend hanging by a thread!! In a matter of several hours the green, black, yellow and white striped creature transformed into a green chrysalis with 3 gold dots!! We were amazed and pleased!! Our friend went a few days over the designated 12 day metamorphosis but alas the chrysalis turned dark and lo and behold a beautiful orange and black butterfly awaited us on Tuesday Sept. 29. Phyllis had lovingly put up a mosquito net and set fresh flowers inside for our butterfly to nibble on. That very day the children helped us set it free in our field. It was magical as it flew up into the sky mingling with the autumn leaves as they tumbled down.

Ah yes, A special moment shared at preschool.

Mez Davis

Notes From Country Kids

Country Kids Daycare is into its 10th year with a morning nursery school program by Mrs. Greene in Calif. It is an exciting educational program which introduces young children to education in a fun way through imagination and a child's love of play.

In September, we studied the letters A and B and the numbers 1 and 2, and the color yellow through songs, dance, games and art work. We learned about fall, ants, the importance of good eating and health habits. Most important, we learned about ourselves as very special people.

During the month of October, we will study the letters C and D, the numbers 3 and 4 and the color blue. We will build a pretend cow that we can milk, pretend to be secretaries, nurses, doctors, teachers and trash collectors. We will also make a scarecrow, learn about fire safety, study dinosaurs, make a pizza from scratch, plus much, much more!

Linda Kosuda

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El Fiesto De Holloweeno

Slip into a costume and dance, dance, dance, to the great grooves of DEBBIE FISH AND BLUE PLATE SPECIAL. Doors officially open at 8:30 pm, music until about midnight. Prizes for best costumes. That's SATURDAY NIGHT, October 31, admission, $3.50, kids free. For more information, please call Doug Tanner, 544-2067.

P.S. We would love to have refreshments sold at this event, if there is anyone who would like to sell food and non-alcoholic beverages, please call Doug Tanner. Thanks.

Halloween Decorating

PLEASE help decorate the Town Hall for the children's Halloween Party and dance to follow later that evening. Oct. 31, decorating begins at 10:30 AM, bring all types of natural, and otherwise, articles to be used in setting the scene for an evening of fun and traditional goulishness. For more information, call Lynne Davis at 544-2067.

Halloween Party

This year's Halloween party at the Wendell Town Hall will be Sat. Oct.31st, 6-7pm.

Two new activities will include face painting and Halloween puppets. If any adults or older children would like to help with these projects and join the fun call Mez at 544-6252.

Hello!

Wendell-resident-in-her-heart, Ingrid Pfhol, bids all her friends hello. She is seen almost daily by a Wendell Post staffer at her place of current employment, Northfield Mount Hermon School, where she is the Nurse Practisioner . Ingrid is jovial and full of stories about the adventures of her traveling sons, Mark and Jason.

Thank You.

Eileen Sauvageau and Stephen Broll would like to thank all the caring folks of Wendell for their sympathy and support surrounding their loss this past week.

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Posting Place

Police Log

8-5-87	Mrs. Green, Sears Rd. reported finding two bicyles.
8-8-87	Horse reported struckby motor vehicle on Dump Rd.
8-18-87	Family disturbance at a Locks Village residence.
8-22-87	Family disturbance on Wikett Pond Rd.
8-28-87	Sent ambulance to Fairbrother's residence on Locks Village Rd.
9-12-87	Vandalizm to Moon residence on West Rd.
9-13-87	Dog shooting incident at Sundell's residence on Locks Village Rd.
9-14-87	Barbara Liberty on Plain Rd. reported three cars vandalized.
9-19-87	Tree down on wires on Farley Rd.
9-21-87	B&E at a residence on Depot Rd.
9-26-87	Motor vehicle accident on Jennison Rd. Juvenile on a four wheeler and a pickup truck. Juvenile injured and later died.
9-30-87	Wendell resident reported being raped in Warwick.
10-6-87	Vandalism to Town Garage overhead door.

Special Town Meeting

OCTOBER 29th
7:30 pm
WENDELL TOWNHALL

Permit Reports

The Wendell Post is starting with this issue a new item. We will be contacting the building inspector and the planning board to find out how many permits have been issued and signed. With this paper I was able to contact our building inspector to get the building permits.

There were eleven permits issued for dwellings; thirteen permits for attached additions (decks, etc.); eleven permits for unattached additions (pool, sheds, etc.).

Anne Diemand

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Full Moon Coffee House

Fundraising for the Rte. 2 Environmental Coalition continues with monthly coffee houses in the Wendell Town Hall.

The second event will spotlight folksinger Laura Berkson, whose song "Marie" is being aired nationally. She specializes in women's music and comes with much acclaim.

Doors open at 7:30 pm and the show will start at 8 with its traditional open mike for local talent. A gala dessert, coffee, and tea array will be available. Coffee Houses have been very popular and well-attended. Don't be late...seating is limited.

Susan DunLany

Library News

The Trustees of the Wendell Free Library would like to thank Laurel Wilson for her years serving as a library trustee.

We welcome Olga Holmberg as our newest member to the Board of Trustees, replacing Laurel.

Congratulations to Judy Pratt as the newly elected chairperson of the library trustees.

Applauded Bear Mtn. Supporters

Wendellites who have helped the cause of the Rte. 2 Environmental Coalition through steady, selfless aid in fundraising (Full Moon Coffeehouses) were feted at a Sept. 6 picnic. The gathering met on the Wendell banks of the Millers River near the proposed realignment of Rte. 2 to the South Bank which they oppose.

A crescendo of spectacularly beautiful and delicious desserts was catered by Brenda Vincent to provide a resounding "Thanks" to the many bakers who have provided the Coffeehouses with the goodies sold there.

A beautiful sunny day provided a background for good socializing, hack-sack and some wild volleyball matches. Thanks to Anne Zak, Dale Kowacki, and Kiffer Sikes for organizing this event.

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FALL HERB WORKSHOP

Know Your Roots -- An intro to Roots, identifying & harvesting - Also an opportunity to make your own tincture.
Sun. nov. 1st 1-5pm
$15

Herbs For Children -- Herbal Health Care for children - Includes remedies for common problems - coughs, colds, rashes, earaches etc. and everyday emergencies, (burns, wounds...)
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nov. 9 & 16
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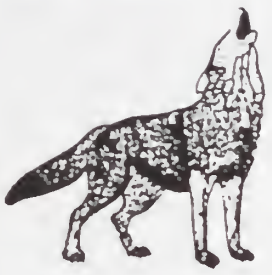

DOG KILLING

On September 13, 1987 a shot rang out at Mary Anne Sundell and Tony Thomas's house. Both were very shocked and hit the floor. Upon going outside when they realized there would probably be no more shots, they found their thirteen year old dog had been shot and was dead in the yard. Windows were also broken by ricohetting buckshot. The police were called and Chief Chase came to the scene. A pickup was discribed, which the police later stopped. The three people in the truck were questioned and this incident is now in the hands of our legal system.

Anne Diemand

I read to You

I read to you
a message of light, dear friend,
of sparkling rainbowed rivers flowing bright,
of darkness dispelling doom
and bringing flowers to bloom -
of fragrances yet to be born
and scents yet to be worn.
Let not the solemnity of your mourning
give you anything but fair warning
to wintered seeds in darkened earth...
Rivers overflowing
love is growing.

Green

GARDEN NOTES

I woke this morning to the first and marked the event as the passing on to the next herb harvester's season - the season of roots. In and out of the garden, growing in field and woods are many plants whose roots are dug - some as a nourishing food source, others as a storehouse of necessary minerals to build the body's various organs and systems, and still others as nature's medicine - affecting particular areas in the body that need stimulating, strenthening, or other influence. The roots are all best harvested in the fall, after the frost. The reason for this is that when frost occurs the plant receives the signal to send down it's nutrients and starches to it's storehouse - the roots - until spring entices all upwards as the bbove ground part of the plant returns. The starches provide the "food" for the plant and when held in the roots, provides us with the same food or medicine.

Often, those roots that are used as medicine need the buffering action the starches for the alkaloidal principles present in the root. Isolated, alkaloids can cause stress on the body, inducing harsh side effects/ Too often, this is what occurs when pharmaceutical companies isolate the active ingredient or alkaloidal principle of a plant and administer this "pure" substance to people via the pharmacy. Side effects such nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness etc. are not uncommom and have become accepted as part of using allopathic drugs. Then one needs another drug to help with the side effects!

Fortunately, there are many plants, cultivated and wild that can be used in place of, and sometimes in conjunction with conventional drug therapy. My favorite example is a plant which is becoming ver popular, mainly because it works so well and is easily cultivated in our area - some folks may be surprised to find this plant - the beautiful Purple coneflower - already thriving in their flower garden! It's Echinacea I speak of. The species indigenuos to the Northeast is Echinacea pupurea - which differs a bit in appearance from E. angustifolia which grows in the prairies of the Midwest. Both are gaining quite a reputation as the Herbal Biotics (as opposed to anti-biotics which translates to "against - life"). Echinacea nourishes and builds the body's defense system, strengthening it and helping the body to deal effectively with any infection, internal or external. Colds, flu, bronchial conditions, sore throats, ear ear infections and more are aided by taking Echinacea for 7-10 days. Herpes simplex which shows up as cold sores and fever blisters responds well with Echinacea and Burdock Root. As a preventative, Echinacea may be taken daily in small amounts as an infusion or tincture. E. pupurea loses its medicinal value upon drying, so infusions need to be prepared from fresh roots. Tinctures are the more easily stored and administered form of root medicine - they are also easily prepared. Simply place cut fresh root in a glass jar, fill with 100 proof vodka, cover tightly and let stand, away from direct sunlight, for 6 weeks. Strain the tincture, bottle in amber bottles, and store in a cool dark place.

When tincturing Echinacea, or any other perennial root, be sure to wait for the frost, and for the plant to be at least 3 years old, which allows the plant to go through two flowering cucles, and the root to grow large enough to be worthwhile harvesting. In the case of Echinacea, the 3rd and 4rth years are the ones to harvest. Growing and/or harvesting your own helps cut the cost of purchasing the tinctures, and beautifies any yard or established garden!

A exellent resource for more information about roots is: Roots: An Underground Botany and Forager's Guide, written and illustrated by Douglas B. Elliott.

Doug's clear descriptions and wonderful sense of humor guide one on a wonderful adventure!

Kate Gilday

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TOWN WARRANT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANKLIN, ss.

To the constable of the Town of Wendell in the County of Franklin.

Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on October 29, 1987 **at** 7:30 **o'clock in the** P.M. **, then and there to act on the following articles:**

ARTICLE 1] To see if the Town will vote to give the Board of Selectmen the authority to buy, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61 Section 8, a piece of land in Wendell, Massachusetts owned by Richard C. Wolfe for a price of $615,000.00, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 2] To see if the Town will vote to give the Board of Selectmen the authority to borrow up to $615,000.00 in order to buy, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61, Section 8, a piece of land in Wendell, Massachusetts owned by Richard C. Wolfe for a price of $615,000.00 or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 3] To see of the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell a piece of land in Wendell Massachusetts, aquired by the Town, from Richard C. Smith pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61, Section 8, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 4] To transact any other legal business that may come before said meeting.

PROSPECTIVE WARRANT---ARTICLES MAY CHANGE IN WORDING
LEGAL COUNCIL APPROVAL PENDING

FINANCE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The finance committee is seeking two new members. The committee's primary function is to advise the townspeople on all financial matters. For further information, please contact Stephen Broll (544-3223).

Selectmen's Minutes

The selectboard's minutes will be posted at the country store. Copies may also be obtained from Regina.

ALERT TO TOWN VOTERS
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

At a June '87 Special Town Meeting, we voted to join a Regional Solid Waste Disposal Planning Committee along with other county towns. We need a 3 member committee to step forward NOW so we can participate in plans from the start.

What does it take?

* an interest in sane methods of dealing with our trash.
* a desire to save on increasing trash taxes
* an ability to work collaboratively with people from other towns
* some time to attend brainstorming meetings

What are some of the issues?

*Recycling
*Incineration
*Landfill

This is a 2nd notice seeking Members! There are many qualified and interested readers worried about time restraints. Please contact me to discuss this. It is more important to have some representation than no representation at all.

Contact Town Moderator Kathy Becker for appointment to this committee (4-2086)

Thank you
Nina Keller
544-2857

Land Transfers

Board of Assessor's Office

Walter Jones to Bruce Scott, 5+A on Bullard Pasture Road.

Matthew J. and Karen Bluth to Matthew Bluth, 1.7A & Bldgs., on Locks Village Rd.

Matthew Bluth to Amy S. Hubert, 1.7A & Bldgs., on Locks Village Rd.

Roy and Susan Henshaw to William F. Noel, 3+A on West Main St. (Wendell Depot Road).

John Richey to David A. Frobel, 1A & Bldg. on Stone Road.

William L. Cherry to David E. House, 13+A, on Bullard Pasture Road.

Artel and Lilliam Bourbeau to Earl and Marcielle Bourbeau, 5+A & Bldgs., on Farley Road.

Garbiel, Gowey, Fellows and Merchant to Joseph Diemand, 42A & Bldgs., on Mormon Hollow Road.

Michael J. and Judith M. Seymour to Mason M. and Ina L. Phelps, 14+A, on New Salem Road.

Raymond E. Avery to Kenneth D. and Rosalie Caville, 8A, on Kentfield Road.

Stein and Schwerin to Joan M. Marietta, 5A, on New Salem Road.

Donald R. Ellis to David and Janice Eno, .5A & Bldg., in Wendell Center.

Harlan Gilbert to Haggai Hes, 2+A & house, on Plain Road.

Warren J. and Franklin J. Ellis to Allyn W. Coombs, 75A, on Mormon Hollow Rd.

Gail A. Jefferson to Charles A. and Geraldine A. Reavey, .37A (?), in Wendell Depot.

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